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REMARKS

Thorough examination and careful review of the application by the Examiner is noted and appreciated.

The indication by the Examiner that Claims 13, 15, 17 and 20 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims is further noted and appreciated by the Applicants.

Independent Claim 12 has been amended to further recite the limitations contained in Claims 13, which is cancelled as a result. The newly amended independent Claim 12 is therefore equivalent to Claim 13 being rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations contained in base Claim 12, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of the newly amended independent Claim 12 and its dependent Claims 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21 is therefore respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-12, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21-34 are rejected.

Claims 13, 15, 17, and 20 are objected to.

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Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §112, 2nd Paragraph

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 32 has been canceled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102

Claims 29-34 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Kasahara et al.

Claims 29-34 have been canceled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 12, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatenable over Rosback.

Independent Claim 12 has been amended to further recite the limitations of "a zeolite carrier having a silicon/aluminum mole ratio of from about 14 to about 95" which was contained

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in Claim 13, now canceled. The newly amended independent Claim 12 is therefore equivalent to Claim 13 being rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations contained in the base Claim 12, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of Claim 12 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claims 14, 16, 18, 19, and 21 depend on independent Claim 12 and are therefore likewise allowable. A reconsideration for allowance of Claims 14, 16, 18, 19 and 21 is respectfully requested of the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102/103

Claims 1-11 and 22-28 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Baacke.

Claims 1-11 and 22-28 have been canceled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Miura et al.

Claims 1-11 have been canceled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 USC §103(a) as obvious over Rosback.

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Claims 1, 3, 5, and 7 have been canceled and withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner.

Based on the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims, i.e. claims 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, and 21 are now in condition for allowance. Such favorable action by the Examiner at an early date is respectfully solicited.

In the event that the present invention is not in a condition for allowance for any other reasons, the Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at his Bloomfield Hills, Michigan office at (248) 540-4040 such that necessary action may be taken to place the application in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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